

MARY GILBERT;

OR,

A PEEP AT THE ELEPHANT.

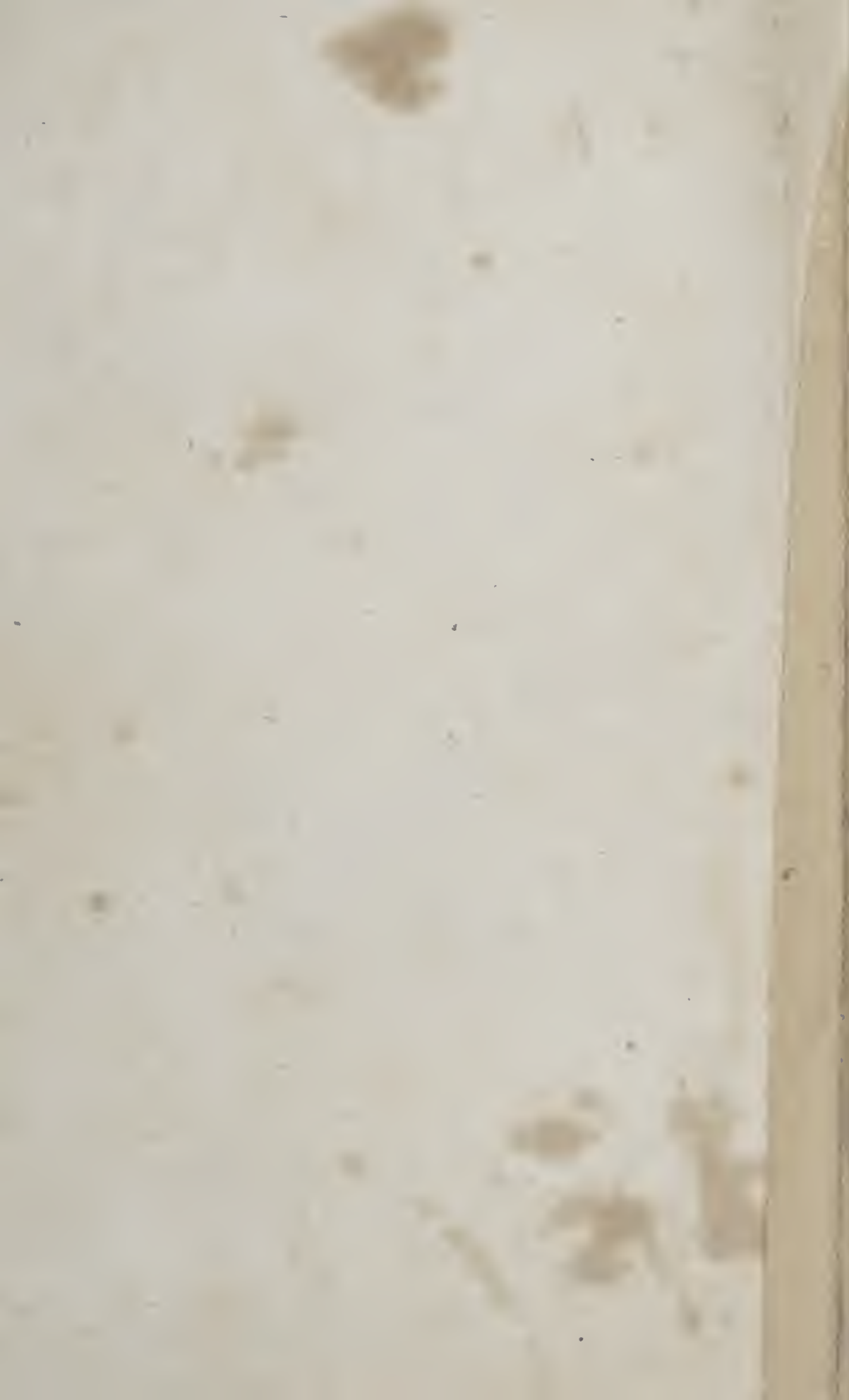
WITH ELEGANT ENGRAVINGS.



SIDNEY'S PRESS :

NEW HAVEN—S. BABCOCK.

1833.



Miss Mary Allen 1885



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Mary was about five years old. She went to the Infant School. She had learned to spell, and was now beginning to read. Mary was generally a pretty good girl ; but one day she became very fretful ; she had not studied her lesson much, and recited it very poorly. So she had to stand at the bottom of her class. And then she began to cry and tear her book ; for which she was punished. Her teacher told her she must go home, for if she remained in school she would make the other children naughty. Mary felt very sorry when she heard this, and all the little children felt sorry too. But Mary had to go home. And what do you think her papa and mama said to her when she got home ? They saw that something was the matter. And they asked Mary if she had hurt herself by falling down, or in any other way.

Mary now felt very much ashamed of herself. But as she had always been taught to speak the truth, she did not tell a falsehood to excuse herself. For she immediately confessed her fault, and then asked her parents

to forgive her. Mary had never before been so naughty at school, and her parents readily forgave her. But Mary could not forget her ill-behavior, and she wept bitterly. And her mama said to her

Mary, my child, why do you still weep? Have I not forgiven you?

Yes, mama, said Mary, but Miss Norton won't like me now. For she told me to come home from school, because I should make the other children naughty.

Oh, well, my little Mary, don't feel so bad. You were never so naughty at school before. And if you will go and tell her that you did wrong, and that you are sorry for it, she will forgive you. And if you study hard you may again rise in your class.

Mary now wiped the tears from her eyes, and soon began to feel better. But she did not go to school again that day. Her mama told her she need not go again until the next morning.

In the morning Mary went to the school as usual. And when she went in, the eyes of all the little girls were fixed upon her. Mary went immediately up to Miss Norton, and confessed she had been a bad girl, and told her she was sorry for it.

Miss Norton immediately forgave Mary; for she saw that Mary was sorry for her faults. And then she had Mary placed back

in the class again. The little girls also appeared glad to have Mary come back to her class; for Mary was beloved by them all; and they had never known Mary to be naughty before. So they could easily forgive her.

Mary was very careful after this to guard against fretfulness. For this it was that had brought her into all her trouble. And she daily grew in favor with Miss Norton and all her little pupils. She improved so fast in reading that she soon stood at the head of her class, and no one could get above her while she continued at the school.

One afternoon Mary went with her papa to take a walk in the fields. And when they came back, Betty brought a bowl of nice hominy and milk for Mary to eat. It was quite warm, and Betty told Mary she had better put it in the window and let it cool a little. But Mary was so fond of hominy and milk that she began immediately to eat it. And by the very first spoonful she swallowed she was sadly burned. And it made her cry very loud. But Mary learned from this never to eat her victuals until they were well cooled.

Mary had now grown up to be quite a girl. And she was placed in another school, where she could learn to write and cipher. And she studied grammar also, and she learned other useful lessons so well that the school mistress wanted to have Mary become a lit-

the Monitress, and help her instruct the smaller children. This Mary consented to. And she was so pleasing in her manners, that the little children would listen to her with the greatest attention.

One day there came a great number of large covered waggons into the town where Mary lived. They stopped near the school house, and all the little girls ran towards them. But before they came near the waggons, they heard such strange noises that some of the little ones were quite frightened, and ran back. But the men told them that they need not be afraid. They told the children that they had brought a great many wild animals for them to see; and if they would come in the morning they might all go in and see them.

Among the animals which these men had brought, there was one which was very large, and of a dark brown color. The men called it an Elephant. And when they told it to do any thing it would immediately obey. The other animals the children could not yet see, because they were shut up in the waggons. But the Elephant was so large that they could not put him into a waggon.

When Mary went home she told her papa all about what she had seen, and how kindly the men were going to show the animals to all the children in the morning. And Mary



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asked her papa if she might go with the girls in the morning.

Yes, certainly you can go, Mary. But I am afraid you will not see them unless you pay for the sight.

Why, papa, the men asked us to come in the morning; and they said they would then show the animals to all of us.

Very likely they will be glad to see you again in the morning. But they will be better pleased if each carries a sixpence. However, you may go, if you wish, and see how generous the men will be.

Mary was on the spot early in the morning, together with most of her school mates. But what was their surprise and mortification to find that none could go in, but such as had money to pay for a ticket! The little girls and boys did not expect this, for not one of them had brought any money. So they all had to return home in sad disappointment, chagrined with having only *heard* the animals instead of *seeing* them!

But Mary's papa bought her a ticket in the afternoon, and then went in with her. Mary now beheld with her own eyes a great many animals, of which she had before only read, or seen the pictures. But the great Elephant was what most surprised Mary. He was so large that his back nearly touched the wall above him. And when he walked upon

the floor the timbers would bend and appear ready to break.

And then his great white tusks ! Why, they seemed made to tear down houses with !

But when Mary saw the Elephant use his trunk, she was perfectly delighted. At one time he would stretch it out to receive an apple from the boys. And when the boys had given him the apple, he would curl up his trunk and then throw the apple into his mouth.

At another time he would nip his trunk around the cork of a bottle. When he had started the cork a little, that it might fly out, he would pour the beer down his throat ! Whenever the keeper wished him to kneel, he only had to speak to the Elephant, and he would immediately kneel. Sometimes the keeper would get under the Elephant and bind a rope around his legs, to show how perfectly tame he was.

Mary was also much pleased with the freaks of the Monkeys, which were skipping about, and chattering loud enough to deafen a person. The large Lion, the ferocious Tiger, and the beautifully spotted Leopard, were also pleasing to look at, while so safely secured within their iron cages.

When school was out Mary immediately ran home to tell brother George of all she had seen. But George was not at home, he

had gone out to ride upon the little pony his father had given him. Thus little Mary was again sadly disappointed. However, there were others in the family who had itching ears to hear about the wonderful animals which had so lately come among them. For the servants would listen as long as Mary would talk.

So engaged was Mary to tell others of what she had seen, that she was going back to school without even thinking of her dinner!

In the evening the family were all assembled in the sitting room. For some time Mary waited for an opportunity to speak without interrupting her father. But as she had been taught politeness, she did not venture to interrupt her parents while they were conversing. So Mary was content to wait until her father spoke to her and said—

Well, miss Mary, can't you tell us something of the exhibition you went to this morning—something about the Elephant?

Why, yes, sir; for I shall never forget that. But I have told George about it, and mama says you have told her.

Yes, sir, said George. Sister has told us all about it, and it seemed as if she would never get through! and when she had done telling us, she was in such a hurry to tell somebody else that she liked to have lost her dinner.



But George was not at home ; he had gone out to ride upon the little pony his father had given him. [Page 10.]

Well, said Mary, they were so beautiful! But, papa, isn't the Elephant the largest animal in the world?

No, my child. There is another animal much larger; but it does not live upon the earth. Its home is in the mighty deep. It is called the Whale.

The Elephant which you saw is immensely large, and would weigh as much as five horses, but there have been animals which lived upon the earth that were larger than the Elephant. They are called Mammoths. None of them are now living, but their bones are sometimes found buried in the earth.

Larger than the Elephant, did you say, father? asked George.

Yes, my son, it was much larger, and—

Larger than the Elephant! quickly exclaimed Mary. Why what a great animal it must have been! Wasn't every body afraid of it, papa?

That I am not able to tell you, Mary. It is many thousand years since any of them were alive, and there are no writers who tell us of the nature of the animal. Perhaps it was not so ferocious as most wild animals. It may have been harmless towards man. But it must have required immense quantities of food for its support. It was probably from love to us that God permitted the species to pass away from off the earth.

• But, papa, you said there was another kind of animals larger than the Elephant, that were still alive. You said they lived in the great waters, didn't you?

Yes, Mary, the Whale lives in the water, and is much larger than even the Mammoth. Some Whales have been captured which were more than one hundred feet long: and one single Whale will weigh more than six large Elephants.

Why, I thought there couldn't be any living thing larger than the Elephant, papa. I can't think how a Whale can live, if it is so large, for it seemed as if the Elephant could scarce move.

If you should see the Elephant walk, Mary, you would not think it hard for him to move! Although he is so large, and appears so clumsy, yet he can walk as fast as a smart horse can trot.

Did you ever see a Whale, father? asked John.

No, my son, I never have. Whales are not usually found near our shores. They are found mostly in distant seas. But I have read many interesting accounts of Whales, and of the danger of capturing them.

Capture! why, papa, do men ever undertake to catch Whales? I should think they would be glad to keep away from such mon-

sters? What do they want to catch them for? asked Mary.

Men capture Whales for the purpose of getting the fat which grows in profusion about their bodies. The oil which burns in yonder lamp, was once the part of a Whale. But I must leave this part of the subject until some other time. I have seen a little book which will tell you all about Whales, and the manner in which they are captured. The book is called 'Stories about Whale Catching.' When I go to New Haven I will buy it for you.

Father, said George, don't you believe it was a Whale that swallowed up Jonah, when the men threw him overboard?

Why, certainly it was, brother George. Don't you know how often Betty has told us about Jonah's swallowing a Whale?

Jonah's swallowing a Whale! well, if that isn't a good one! But let us ask father to tell us the story over again, and then we shall find out whether Jonah swallowed the Whale.

George could say no more. His merriment now overcame his power of speech, and he burst forth in strains of loud laughter, at Mary's blunder.

There, there, that will do; that will do, master George. Mary sees she has made a mistake. But I hope she will be more careful in future.

I think it was a mistake ! and a pretty large one, too !

Well, George, you need'nt laugh about it so much, for you make mistakes sometimes. Come, do be still now, while papa tells us all about it.

Yes, if you wish me to tell you the story, I expect that you will be perfectly still and quiet.

Jonah lived a great many hundred years since. He was a prophet of the Lord, and the Lord bade him go and preach against Nineveh, a great and wicked city. But Jonah did not obey the Lord. He went on board of a ship and sailed another way.— And the Lord followed him by a mighty tempest, so that the men in the vessel were in great fear. They thought the vessel would sink, and all on board be drowned. They supposed there must be some wicked person on board : so they cast lots to know who it was. And the lot fell upon Jonah. Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, What hast thou done ? What shall we do unto thee ?

And Jonah said unto them, take me up and cast me forth into the sea, for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you. So they took up Jonah and cast him forth into the sea ; and the sea ceased her raging.

Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Well, papa, was it not a Whale that swallowed him? quickly asked Mary. I think the Bible says so somewhere.

Yes, probably it was; for the fish is called a Whale, when spoken of in the New Testament.

Papa, how did Jonah get out of the Whale's belly, after he had been there three days and three nights?

We are told that the Lord spake unto the fish and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Well, father, did Jonah go to Nineveh after he came out of the Whale's belly? asked George.

Yes: he had been punished for his disobedience and was now ready to obey. But it would have been much better for him if he had gone immediately when the Lord commanded him: for the duty laid upon him was easy to perform, as he afterwards found.—The Lord bids none of his creatures do that which they are unable to do. The reason why people are wicked is because they choose to disobey the Lord. When he bids them do one thing they choose to do another. Thus they seek to do their own wills and not God's.



So they took up Jonah and cast him forth into the sea; and the sea
ceased her raging.

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Nineveh was a mighty city, and it took Jonah three days to go through its streets : and as he went he proclaimed to the people the message which God had commanded him. He told them that the Lord was about to destroy their city for its great wickedness.— When the king heard of Jonah and his preaching, he was much troubled ; and he laid by his robe and covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. And he commanded that all the people should do likewise. And God saw their repentance and sent not upon them the destruction which Jonah had proclaimed. Thus was the city preserved.

Now if Jonah had not obeyed the Lord, and been faithful in telling the people of their wickedness, who knows but they might all have perished in their sins ? So you see that the evil of Jonah's disobedience would not only have been felt by him, but it would have extended to a whole city. This is often the case when one does wrong. The influence of sin always extends beyond those who commit it.

And now, my children, God has commands for you. He does not speak to you as he did to Jonah. But he speaks to you through the Bible. Whatever instruction you find in that good book I wish you to obey. The Bible was written by holy men of old, as they were moved by God's Holy Spirit. It

tells you that you must love God, and love one another,—that you must not tell falsehoods ; that you must not swear, nor steal, nor do any thing that is wrong.

If any one wants you to do that which is wrong, do it not. Say within yourself as Joseph said, how shall I do this great thing and sin against God ? and then flee away from temptation. Always remember that wherever you are, God is—that whatever you do, he sees. The great book of his remembrance is always open before him, and he will judge you from it of all the things done in the body. If you will love and serve him while here in the world, he will take you to glory when you die.

Papa, can God see me when I go down cellar where it is all dark ? asked little Mary.

Yes, my child, there is no darkness too great for God to see through. With him thick darkness is the same as the blazing light.

He it was that made the world. The sun, the moon, and the stars all came forth at his command. He it was that made the Elephant, and all that walks upon the face of the earth. The mighty Whale and all that swims in the depth below, were also made by Him.

But man is the noblest of all the works which God has made. To him God gave a soul—that which thinks, that which will live

so long as God exists. After this earth shall have been melted with fervent heat, and these heavens shall have passed away, the soul will live ! and the moon and the stars shall have been darkened, and the sun shall have been blotted out, the soul will still live, and soar above the wreck of a dissolving universe !

Then shall those who have done righteously in the world, be ushered into the place of God's abode. There shall be no weeping, no sorrowing, nor any sighing there. Neither shall there be any sun there, nor any night. For the Lamb that is in the midst of them shall shine upon them with beams of heavenly light.

But the wicked, the wicked, oh, what will become of them, father ?

They shall stand without and knock, and begin to say, Lord, Lord, open unto us ! But a voice will be heard from within saying unto them, Depart from me ! and as their sins crowd upon them, they will all become speechless. Then will they have to go away to their place of abode, where there will be mourning, weeping and sorrowing forever and ever. For when God called upon them to love and serve him, they refused. When he stretched out his hands, none of them regarded. They set at nought his counsel and would none of his reproof. When heaven was offered them they chose it not ; and now



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they are to reap the rewards of their own doings.

'Think not, my children, that the Lord takes pleasure in punishing the wicked. He does not : for God is love. He so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son to die for it, that whosoever believeth on Him might not perish, but have everlasting life. And He says, as I live, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that they turn from their evil ways and live,—turn ye, turn ye, for why will ye die ?



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